



**THE KAURI ULTRA
68KM RUN
COMPETITOR BRIEFING NOTES
Saturday 1st May 2021**

THE EVENT

Welcome to the 16th Great Kauri Run and the sixth running of the Kauri Ultra.

The Great Kauri run is an off-road cross country ultra-run with a total distance of 68km.

It starts and finishes in the township of Coromandel. 200 years ago most of the Coromandel peninsula was covered in Kauri Forest. Today little remains of the original forest. We will plant a Kauri tree along the route for every competitor that takes part in the race and so that gradually over the years there will be an avenue of Kauri trees to run along. To date 3,615 trees have been planted a distance of 15km.

START

The start is at opposite Patukirikiri Reserve by Jacks Point just outside (500m) of Coromandel town on the way to Long Bay. There will be a race briefing at 5.15am. You must sign in with the marshal at the start line – this is our safety control to inform us of who is starting the race. There are toilets close to the start line. The race will start at 5.30am sharp. Note that we have decided to bring the start forward by 30 minutes to ensure that all competitors have the chance to make the two cut-offs that are set out below.

FINISH

The finish line is in the Coromandel School playing fields. At the end of the Success Track you will come onto a sealed road. You follow this to the end where you cross Rings Road over to the footpath, follow it into town (there will be marshals). You will be directed left into Victoria Road and will have one final river crossing before being directed into the School Playing Fields. There will be a detailed map in your race packs and both the course and route to the finish will be clearly marked.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE

Stage 1 – Harray Track

Proceed over the Kauri Block Track to the start of the Harray Track. You will be directed inland onto the Harray Track which is a 5km off road track over to Rings Road. There are few steep sections on this track but in the main it is easy running. At Rings Road you will turn left and head on the left-hand side of the footpath before being directed across the road to Flays Road.

Stage 2 – Flays Road and the Old Colville Road

Proceed approximately 4km uphill along the Flays road. You will be directed onto a wide track which will lead you to the clearly marked start of the Old Colville Road, which is now just a single track. This track has been recently cleared and has hardly been used in 100 years. The track closely follows the 300m contour and after about 4km you will pop out onto a forestry track and your first water station (15km). If it has been raining, parts of the Old Colville Road track will be slippery so caution is required.

Stage 3 – White Star

At the first water station you will turn left (do NOT turn right as that will put you on the short course back to Coromandel!) and proceed along the track that will eventually take you onto, and across, the White Star Farm. At the main farm building you will be directed right on to a farm road and head uphill to the top of the ridge line and the 2nd water station (at 25km). This whole section is open and easy running until you get to the start of the climb.

Stage 4 - Back of Colville

At the 2nd water station, you will be directed left and will be heading northwards (do NOT turn right as that will put you on the course back to Coromandel!). You will follow the farm track until you come to a very clearly marked large corner fence post that will be on your right. This will need to be climbed (watch the barbed wire) and you will follow the directional markers and pink tape into a forest following a gentle undulating track. The route eventually comes out on the Waikanae Valley Road. Runners will proceed 3km along the road to the 3rd water station at the northern end of Waikawau Beach (37km). This whole section is open and easy running.

Stage 5 – Waikawau

The race continues along one of the most stunning beaches in NZ, Waikawau Beach. There is a 2km run along the beach before starting on the Waikawau Trail. This is where the kauri planting starts. The trail includes many stream crossings as it meanders its way gradually to the Waikawau lookout at the 41km mark and 350m above sea level.

Stage 6 – The Central Divide

From the look-out competitors head across country up and onto the central divide and the 4th water stop at 46km (same place as 2nd water stop). This time you will be heading southwards from this water stop. The central divide starts with many challenging ups and downs along the razor back ridge line until settling into a gentler gradient up to the high point at 520m. This is followed by a gradual downhill to a junction and 5th water stop at 54km. Runners will be directed left and after 5km will reach the final water stop on the top of the Kennedy Bay Road (59km).

Stage 7 – The Kaipawa

The most technical part of the run starting with a short and steep ascent to the Kaipawa track. Competitors will make their way up carefully to the Kaipawa trig which is the highest point on the course at 560 meters above sea level at 60km.

Stage 8 – The Success

From the trig is all downhill, a magnificent gradual 5 km descent along the old Success mining trail down into the township of Coromandel and the finishing line at the school fields.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS

- **Getting Lost**

The route follows a mixture of tracks, farm tracks, farm roads and a few very short sections across either farm paddock or unformed forest track. However, the route is well marked with a combination of signs, arrows, kilometer markings (65 to 1) and ribbons. We will show you examples at the race briefing. Please ensure that you keep to the route and follow the markings. In the unlikely situation of getting off the track retrace your steps to the previous marker.

If you do find that you have gone off track and are unable to orientate yourself and get back on course, you should first use your phone to call the organisers to seek assistance. The phone numbers to call are at the end of this sheet and should be loaded in your phones. If there is no cellphone coverage, then you must use your PLB (see more detail below).

- **Tree Routes and rocks**

Part of the track is very technical (particularly the Old Colville Road) and some of the downhill descents can be slippery (particularly the Kaipawa Trig track). Be especially careful on these parts of the track (there will be warning signs).

- **Mine Shafts**

On some parts of the course, particularly the Kaipawa track and Success track there are hidden mine shafts located off the track. Under no circumstances should you deviate from the marked tracks.

- **Injury**
In the event of injury try and walk out or back to the nearest aid station. If you can't walk tell one of your fellow competitors that you are in difficulty and they will alert the nearest marshal. If you come across an injured competitor, please try and help comfort them and either stay with them if it is serious and ensure another competitor goes for help to the nearest aid station. The course has Tail End Charlies who can also assist with walking a competitor out or getting assistance.

In the case of serious injury, you should use the ELB SOS button.

- **Hydration / Food**
Ensure you keep yourselves well hydrated and fueled during the event
- **Public Roads**

You will be running along some quiet public roads in the Northern Coromandel. It is important that you keep on the right-hand side of the roads, the same side as the on coming traffic. The course also entails a few public road crossings, at Ring Road, Flays Road, Waikanae Valley Road, Waikawau Farm Park, Kennedy Bay Road Summit, Coromandel Hospital and Coromandel Town. Be sure to look out for traffic as you are crossing.

COMPULSORY EQUIPMENT / GEAR / EMERGENCY LOCATOR BEACON

The weather in Coromandel in May is generally settled but conditions can get very cold, wet and windy up on the Coromandel ranges at any time of the year. For this reason, you must carry or wear a windproof jacket and polyprop or merino long sleeved top and carry a survival blanket with you. You will also need to take a headlamp fully charged or with fresh batteries, a fully charged cellphone and carry a ELB which will be provided.

The ELB provided enables us to track your whereabouts. It comes with an SOS button which should only be used in the case of an emergency. For example if you are badly injured and lost.

WATER AND FUEL STOPS

There will be water and R-Line Electrolyte available along with bananas, oranges and jellybeans.

These will be provided at the following 5 points:

- Water Stop 1 – End of Old Colville Road – 15km
- Water Stop 2 – Top of White Star Station – 25km
- Water Stop 3 – Waikawau Beach – 33km – 37km
- Water Stop 4 – Top of White Star Station – 46km (same as Water Stop 2)
- Water Stop 5 – Ariel Junction – 54km
- Water Stop 6 – Top of Kennedy Bay Road – 59km

Competitors can also provide a supply pack to the organisers to be taken to the 33km point at Waikawau. This can be given to the organisers at the start line.

CUT OFFS

For safety reasons we will have the following cut offs in place.

1. Waikawau Beach – Runners will need to have left the Waikawau Aid station by 12.00pm mid-day.
2. Top of Kennedy Bay Road - Runners will need to have left the Kennedy Bay Road Aid station by 4pm.

TAIL END CHARLIES

There will be tail- end Charlies following the last person on the run. They will explain their role at the race briefing.

MAP

You will be provided with a map of the course in your race pack. You should carry this with you on the race, just in case for some reason you get lost. If you do find that you have gone off track and are unable to orientate yourself and get back on course, you should first use your phone to call the organisers to seek assistance. The phone numbers to call are at the end of

this sheet and should be loaded in your phones. If there is no cellphone coverage, then you must use your PLB.

NUMBERS

Each competitor will be provided with a race number which should be visible.

PRIZES

The main prize giving will be from 4.00pm by the finish area in the School Field. If it's raining, we will move to the School Hall. Some of you may well come in after prize giving, but don't worry we will be there to greet you and provide you with the necessary comforting!

The overall Men's and Women's winners will receive a beautiful hand carved bowl made from 2000 year old swamp kauri plus a free entry into next years race.

RESULTS

These will be recorded on the web site after the race.

SAFETY / SECURITY

The race will be supported by comprehensive safety backup including land-based marshals and medical support on the course.

CONSIDERATION FOR THE LAND

To enable us to run this event we have sought permission from private landowners, DOC and other interested parties. It is important that we treat the land that we pass through with respect. To this end it is a compulsory requirement that everyone carry out their own rubbish including personal waste. Anyone who is seen littering will be disqualified.

KAURI DIEBACK

We ask you to clean all soil from footwear at home before checking in. Please also walk through the Kauri Dieback disinfection sponge mats that will be set up at the start.

KEY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Ian Rowe – Communications	021-229-6764
Janice Mueller – Communications	021-753-020
Andy Reid – Event Organiser	0274-921-348
Rita Stephenson- Event Organiser	027-210-3734
Keith Stephenson – Event Organiser	027-265-1040